

A Very Brief History of the Krass Family

by Rev. Daniel J. Moore, grandson of Philip E. Krass

The Krass family (my grandfather's paternal family) came from the German village of Rüdesheim, a small city along the east bank of the Rhein River. (For many years, there was a *Krass Hotel* in Rüdesheim. According to my grandfather, and the hotel's own records, there is a family connection but we are not sure who this way be.) The earliest Krass ancestor that we know of is Johann Peter Krass (or "Craß" in the German records), who was born in October of 1760. He had a son named Jacob in October of 1791. Jacob had a son named Philipp Heinrich on January 18, 1833. Philipp Heinrich would be my grandfather's grandfather.



My grand-father's maternal family (The Dannheimer's.) came from Worms (where Martin Luther was brought before "the great lords of the German Empire" in 1521). My grand-father's mother was Wilhelmine (sometimes called "Mina" when she was young) Dannheimer who was born on August 28, 1874. (According to Madeline Krass the two Dannheimer sisters, who each married a Krass brother, had very dark red hair.)

My great-grandfather was Wilhelm Krass, who was born on May 3, 1874 in Rüdesheim, Germany. He was the son of Philipp Heinrich, and not seeing a future in tending the vineyards like his father, came to America when he was 23 and arrived at Ellis Island in 1897. Having artistic talent, but practical needs, he became a stone a lithographer - a printer of fine detailed work. Some of the postcards that he helped to print (such as a sample at the end of this essay) are still in the families possession.

In 1904 the family (my great-grandfather Wilhelm, age 30; his wife Wilhelmine, age 30; and their two children who were born in the U.S. - Wilhelm ("Bill"), age 5 and Mina (according to the entry form at Ellis Island) (or "Minnie" according to family tradition), age 2.) traveled back to Germany so that Wilhelmine could visit her family. While there my grand-father, Philip Edward Krass - my mother's father - was born on August 7, 1904. He would be baptized in the Roman Catholic church in Rüdesheim on August 14th.

On September 3, 1904 the Krass family would board the *SS Noordam* in Rotterdam and arrive at Ellis Island, New York on September 13, 1904.



The S.S. *Noordam* of the Holland-America Line. She sailed from 1901 - 1923.

Wilhelmine would pass away (as best as can be remembered) in 1907 and Wilhelm Sr would marry Bertha Lieman on May 16, 1908. They would have a daughter named Margaret who was born on September 14, 1921 but would pass away on March 12, 1940. She had married Edward Joseph Dishman previously. Another child, John Krass, was born May 20, 1911 but died in June of 1911.

Bertha Krass would pass on July 9, 1951. Wilhelm Sr ("William") died on May 20, 1949.

Wilhelm Jr (Who always went by "Bill".) would pass on January 29, 1980. (Bill had a son also named Bill who himself would have three daughters, but the family lost touch with him and are unsure what became of him.) Minnie, who went by her middle name "Lucille", would pass on April 27, 1983.



Philip and Marguerite Krass in 1964

My grand-father Philip would marry Marguerite Veronica Conklin (born on February 20, 1907) on October 9, 1932. They would have two daughters: Marguerite Veronica, born January 16, 1935 and Phyllis Madeline, born on July 12, 1940.

For many years, Philip would be the assistance post master of Rockville Center, New York. He was great friends with Phil Meyers, who would marry Marguerite's sister Emily Conklin. There are countless stories of the trouble Philip and Phil would get into, but none as famous as their horseradish eating contests.



Christ on the Cross by Philip Krass, circa 1935.

"Pop Pop" was a remarkably skilled woodworker and artist. Some of the items that he carved from wood are still prized family possessions, and the drawings that have survived show a real talent.

Near the end of his life, he suffered from Alzheimer's disease. The family moved him to a nursing home in Guilford, Connecticut where his daughter Phyllis and her family lived. "Nana" would alternate between living with Phyllis in Guilford and Marguerite and her family in Oakland, New Jersey.

Philip Krass would pass away in Guilford, Connecticut on July 22, 1987. Marguerite (Conklin) Krass would pass away while living in Oakland, New Jersey on October 30, 1987.

Marguerite Krass would marry Robert Schwab in 1964 and have three children: Robert, born on September 4, 1965; Mary (who we called "Sissy" when we were kids), born on March 16, 1968; and Patricia, born on May 29, 1970. "Bobby" would marry Donna Sylver (born April 15, 1968) on December 9, 1989. They have three children. "Trish" would marry George Williams Bishop IV (born September 25, 1963) and have one son.



Philip and Marguerite Krass (and family) at their 50th wedding anniversary in 1982.

Front row (left to right) Matthew Moore, Marguerite Krass, and Patricia Schwab.
Back row (left to right) Mary Schwab, Robert Schwab Jr, Robert Schwab Sr, Marguerite Schwab, Philip Krass, Phyllis Moore, Robert Moore, and Daniel Moore.

Bob and Donna Schwab's children are: Kelly Noreen, born on February 9, 1993; Rebecca "Becky" Florence, born on September 9, 1996; and Patrick Philip, born on July 1, 2002.

George and Trish Bishop's son is George Williams Bishop V, who was born on January 23, 2004.



Most of the family at my folks home at Lake of the Woods (VA) in September 2007.

Top Row: George Bishop IV, Robert Schwab Sr, Robert Schwab Jr.

Second Row: Matthew Moore, Phyllis Moore, Marguerite Schwab.

Third from Top: Denise Moore, Trish Bishop, Donna Schwab, Kate Moore, Robert Moore (standing).

Below Them: Patrick Schwab and George Bishop V.

Bottom Row: Becky Schwab, Dan Moore, Kelly Schwab.

Missing: Mary Schwab.

Phyllis, my mom, (Who would pass away on May 26, 2010.) would marry Robert Moore on December 19, 1964 and have two sons: myself, Daniel John (born on March 9, 1970 in Rochester, New York) and Matthew Christian (born June 25, 1973 in Falls Church, Virginia). I would marry Denise Eileen Anderson (born on April 13, 1967) on May 25, 1996 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Matthew would marry Katharine Anne Campbell (born on December 8, 1970) on May 23, 1997 in Danbury, Connecticut.

Denise's paternal grandfather was George Anderson, a star baseball player for the House of David semipro baseball teams of the 1940's and 50's. My mom and her father would go and see the House of David teams play when she was a little girl. She was thrilled to sit down and talk with "Grandpa" Anderson at our wedding reception, and treasured the baseball he signed for her.



My mom, Phyllis Moore, and Mickey Mouse at Disney World circa 1984.

Denise and I welcomed into our family (We would have adopted her, but she was 18 at the time.) a daughter named April RaeLana Bevelheimer (born on May 9, 1988) in 2006. She would have two children before her marriage: Isabel Marie Newell on May 10, 2008 and Elijah Allen Newell on July 10, 2009. (I would baptize them both.)

My mom, who did meet April on one of her visits to Iowa, was thrilled to become a great-grandmother. "Nana Phyllis" and April sent countless email's back and forth when April was pregnant. When my mom passed away, I discovered her bedroom mirror was covered with picture of Isabel and Elijah.

The last email message my mom sent me was in response to the news that Isabel had used the potty for the first time. She said she had to send April a copy of the book *Everybody Poops*. It arrived at April's home a week after my mom had passed.

On February 20, 2010 April married Chris Krogmeier (born on January 29, 1978). (I would preform the ceremony.) They would have their first child together - Victor Allen Krogmeier - on March 9, 2012. It was a wonderful gift on my 42nd birthday.



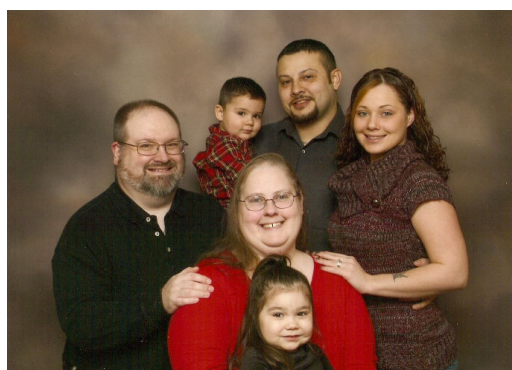
A sample of the lithographic work of my great-grandfather Wilhelm Krass.



Becky, Patrick and Kelly Schwab - Christmas 2012.



Dan and Denise Moore with (then Senator) Barak Obama - June 2007.



My family in January 2011: My wife Denise with grand-daughter Isabel on her lap. Left to right is myself, grandson Elijah, son-in-law Chris and daughter April.

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